Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 26, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Proclamation 7544—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2002

April 19, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's organ and tissue donor program is an important part of our healthcare system. Through the organ donor program, Americans can provide hope to those who face difficult and often life-threatening conditions caused by the failure of vital organs. The selfless generosity of organ and tissue donors helps meet a significant and growing need in our country.

Statistics show that approximately 60 Americans receive a transplant every day. However, at the same time, another 15 people die because not enough organs are available. There are more than 79,500 patients waiting for an organ transplant, and another person joins the waiting list every 13 minutes.

My Administration is committed to expanding the organ and tissue program to close this gap. Last year, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy Thompson assumed leadership of this effort through the "Gift of Life Donation Initiative." This Initiative involves collaboration among businesses and employees to make organ donation information more available. It also includes the development of a national forum on donor registries, a new model donor card, and increased cooperation between HHS, other Federal agencies, and State governments to promote donor awareness.

Every day, Americans across our Nation provide help for those in need in countless ways. During this week, we renew our efforts to foster this compassion and to help save lives by promoting organ and tissue donation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon all medical professionals, educators, volunteers, government agencies, and private organizations to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7545—National Volunteer Week, 2002

April 19, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Citizen service has always been a cornerstone of our democracy. Since our founding, Americans have stepped forward to serve the needs of others, strengthen our communities, and defend the freedoms we treasure.

Our country and the world continue to see the compassion, strength, and generosity of Americans in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Volunteers from across the Nation united to help meet the needs of those harmed by the tragic attacks, volunteering their time, their financial resources, and their kindness.

The spirit that guided our response to the attacks is still evident in Americans of every age group and background who volunteer their time to enhance the lives of others. These compassionate people work through a broad range of organizations that reflect the diversity of our country, including private charities, faith-based organizations, schools, neighborhood groups, volunteer centers, service clubs, and Federal service programs. The efforts of millions of Americans help solve some of our most pressing problems and build bonds of trust among people.

To tap further into our Nation's vast resources of compassion and strength, I recently created the USA Freedom Corps (USAFC). And I have called on all Americans to give at least 2 years—or 4,000 hours—during their lives in service to others. This service is essential to forging a united response to overcoming the challenges that face our Nation.

The USAFC will help unleash our armies of compassion, enhance homeland security, provide additional service and volunteer opportunities in our communities, and help people in America and around the world to meet important needs. Many Americans are already answering the call, volunteering a few hours each week or a few days each month to aid a local school, by mentoring or tutoring a child. Citizens are also donating their time to support a place of worship, to offer their expertise to a neighborhood association, or to strengthen a local service organization. Others are serving our country full time in the military or in programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps. I urge citizens to keep a record of their service experiences in a journal that will enable them to share them with their children and grand children, inspiring new generations to engage in community service.

The spirit exemplified by America's volunteers will help create a culture of responsibility and caring that will inspire us to achieve greatness as a Nation. During National Volunteer Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about how they can serve, to volunteer to help those in need, and to encourage the volunteers across the country who are answering the call to service. Americans looking for a way to serve can contact the USA Freedom Corps web site at *www.usafreedomcorps.gov* or call, toll-free, 1–877–USA–CORPS (872–2677).

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2002, as National Volunteer Week. I call on all Americans to join together to celebrate the vital work that volunteers perform every day across our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 20, 2002

Good morning. This week Secretary of State Colin Powell returned from the Middle East and reported on his intensive and productive meetings.

In this region, we are confronting hatred that is centuries old and disputes that have lingered for decades. Yet, America has a vision for peace, and by calling all the leaders of the Middle East to their responsibilities, Secretary Powell made progress toward peace.

To defuse the current crisis, the Palestinian Authority must act on its words of condemnation against terror. Israel must continue its withdrawals. All Arab nations must confront terror in their own region. All parties must stop funding or inciting terror and must state clearly that a murderer is not a martyr; he or she is just a murderer.

All parties must realize that the only long-term solution is for two states, Israel and Palestine, to live side by side in security and peace. This will require hard choices and real

leadership by Israelis and Palestinians and their Arab neighbors.

The time is now for all of us to make the choice for peace. America will continue to work toward this vision of peace in the Middle East, and America continues to press forward in our war against global terror. We will use every available tool to tighten the noose around the terrorists and their supporters. And when it comes to the threat of terror, the only path to safety is the path of action.

In the days just after September the 11th, I told the American people our war against terrorism would be a different war, fought on many fronts. And we are making progress on many fronts. Yesterday the United States and the world's other leading industrialized nations blocked the financial assets of another 10 terrorists and terrorist organizations. This joint action among close allies is an important step in choking off the financial pipeline that pays for terrorist training and attacks.

A total of 161 nations around the world have joined together to block more than $100 million of suspected terrorist assets. The United States also works with our friends and allies around the world to round up individual terrorists, such as Abu Zubaydah, a top Al Qaida leader captured in Pakistan. From Spain to Singapore, our partners are breaking up terrorist cells and disrupting their plans. Altogether, more than 1,600 terrorists and their supporters have been arrested or detained in 95 foreign nations.

In Afghanistan, the United States and its partners are pressing forward with a military campaign against Al Qaida and the Taliban. More than a dozen of our NATO Allies are contributing forces to this fight. Right now, hundreds of Royal Marines from Great Britain are leading an operation to clear and seal off regions where our enemies are trying to regroup to commit murder and mayhem and to undermine Afghanistan's efforts to build a lasting peace.

And we're working with nations such as Yemen, the Philippines, and Georgia that seek our help in training and equipping their military forces to fight terror in some of the world's distant corners.

We're making progress. Yet, nothing about this war will be quick or easy. We face dangers and sacrifices ahead. America is ready; the morale of our military is high; the will of our people is strong. We are determined; we are steadfast; and we will continue for as long as it takes, until the mission is done.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:10 a.m. on April 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Earth Day in Wilmington, New York

April 22, 2002

Well, thank you for that warm welcome on a snowy day. [*Laughter*] We had a great time in the park, and I want to thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity to hammer and stack, place gravel—[*laughter*]—in a beautiful part of the world. This is quite a sight for a fellow from Texas. [*Laughter*] It's quite a sight for anybody in America. And George is right, this is some of the most beautiful country in our entire Nation.

I want to thank you all very much for welcoming me here on Earth Day, a day every spring when America can reflect on our natural world and our duties as Americans to do everything we can to promote the spirit of Earth Day. We have a duty in our country to make sure our land is preserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, our parks are accessible and open and well-preserved. And that's why I'm here, to trumpet this duty and to thank those who assume their duty.

I firmly believe that the—32 years after Earth Day, America understands our obligation much more so than in the years past, that we must be careful of our actions. Americans understand that. Good stewardship is a personal responsibility of all of us, and it's a public value. And that's what's important for Americans to understand, that each of us have a responsibility, and it's a part of our

value system in our country to assume that responsibility.

Somebody who understands that is the Governor of the State of New York, George Pataki. He's a great Governor; he's a good friend. He wields a pretty mean hammer. [*Laughter*] I'm proud to call him friend. And I know the people of New York are proud to call him Governor. He's the kind of fellow who does in office that which he says he's going to do. It doesn't matter what your political party is, as far as I'm concerned. What matters is—in this case, what matters is that he does—he kind of defeats cynicism by performing. And therefore, what I was going to say is, it doesn't matter what your party is; you've got to admire that in a man.

I also appreciate Christie Todd Whitman's service to the country. Pataki, me, and Christie Todd were all Governors at one time or another and got to know each other. I knew she was a very good Governor of New Jersey and she'd be a great Administrator of the EPA, and she hasn't let me down.

I want to thank Congressman Sherry Boehlert and John McHugh and John Sweeney for being here as well, the three Congressmen; thank you all for coming. David Skovron of the—chairman of the Adirondack Council, I want to thank you, David, wherever you are. I want to thank Steve McCormick of the Nature Conservancy. I appreciate the good work of the Nature Conservancy. It's a fantastic organization that's doing America a lot of good. I want to thank the members of AmeriCorps. I want to thank the Student Conservation Association, particularly its leadership, the sergeants. I want to thank the Adirondack Council, the Adirondack Park Agency, and all the good folks here who care about the environment and who care about this beautiful part of the world.

You know, Christie Todd talked about Teddy Roosevelt, and I—every morning when I go to the Oval Office, I sit at the same desk he used as well as Franklin Roosevelt as well as other Presidents. But the guy who wrote the book "Theodore Rex," Edmund Morris, came in, took a look at the Oval Office, and said, "You know, Teddy Roosevelt sat there." And it reminds me of what a huge responsibility I have. And I'm grateful for that.

And it also amazes me that in this very park, Teddy Roosevelt used to hang out. It was here that he formed a lot of his views, and I can see why. These parks helped shape his view of conservation, which had a significant impact on our park system here in America—eventually helped with the beginning of a park system that is worthy of protection and worthy of our focus and attention.

Thousands of acres in the Adirondacks are unchanged. And it's important for people to realize why: Not because they were neglected but because people have cared for the acreage; not because people have said, "Well, let's just let it sit;" it's because there have been thousands of man-hours put into this area to make it work for the good of all. And that's important for people to realize.

Generations of New Yorkers have made a commitment and have said this: "Tread lightly here, and make sure we place sensible limits on the reach of development." And that's what's happened. Here we see good stewardship in action. The Adirondack Park is among the first protected wilderness areas in our country. Yet, this land is also home to many, a place to work, a sanctuary for visitors who come here to appreciate the peace and beauty they can find here.

In the north country of New York, you have chosen the way of cooperation. Private organizations, land owners, government at all levels are working with each other as opposed to against each other. And for those who care deeply about our environment and our country, the lessons learned here are essential. And that is, we must cooperate, we must work together. It is a standard for good conservation being set here, and I'm here to herald it and thank you all.

The Adirondack Park also depends upon the work of volunteers. And for those of you who volunteer here, I want to thank you, as do—those who work here thank you as well. You give your time for an incredibly worthy cause. You help maintain the place so that future generations can use it and know it like you have known it. You protect the wildlife so they have room to roam and a place to live. I was most impressed by how—by the discussion of the beaver dams and the care

for not only the trail system but for the beavers, themselves. It was an understanding of the importance of good stewardship.

The other thing the volunteers do is they welcome people here—after all, this is the people's land; this isn't one person's land; it's the people's land—inform visitors about the mountains so they can enjoy their time and leave only footprints behind.

All together, 200,000 Americans lend their time to the care of our national parks and Federal lands, and that's impressive. The commitment they show is more than good stewardship; it is responsible citizenship.

Not only do people have responsibility, obviously, but so does your Government. And the Federal Government has got a big responsibility, and I understand that. And I accept the responsibilities of our Government. For three decades, we've acted with clear purpose to prevent needless and, at times, reckless disregard of the air and the water and the soil and the wildlife. This commitment has yielded tremendous progress. Our lakes and rivers are much cleaner than they were on the first Earth Day.

Limits on toxic emissions have greatly improved the quality of the air we breathe. The Clean Air Act has helped reduce acid rain and urban air pollution. We've done all this at a time when our economy and population grew dramatically. We have shown that we can expand our economy for the good of all of us, while also being good and conscientious stewards of the environment. And that's an important lesson. Americans can be proud of these achievements.

We also see there is work ahead. The Federal Government should do more to assist the States and communities in promoting conservation. I have made it my goal of my administration to revitalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, particularly the grants it provides to States and local communities. The fund was created to help acquire, conserve, and improve recreational facilities on public lands. Yet in recent years, the Federal Government has fallen way short of meeting this commitment. So I've asked Congress to increase the fund's State grants by 38 percent, to make sure that the States get their share of the money, as the authors of the law intended. This will allow for more innovative conservation approaches, such as the ones led by George Pataki and other Governors and other local officials around the country.

May probably not come as much of a surprise to you, but I don't believe all wisdom resides in Washington, DC. I think the people closest to the land are those who probably love the land more than folks in Washington, DC. And this is a way to make sure that power and money get out of Washington, for the good of the environment.

I also call for new clear skies legislation, to set new tough standards to reduce air pollution. For decades, New Yorkers have been fighting acid rain. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments helped reduce the problem. And now we should do more at the Federal level. Some of the biggest sources of air pollution are the powerplants, which send tons of emissions into our air. Therefore we have set a goal: With clear skies legislation, America will do more to reduce powerplant emissions than ever before in our Nation's history.

We will reach our ambitious air quality goals through a market-based approach that rewards innovation, reduces cost, and most importantly, guarantees results. Mine is a results-oriented administration. When we say we expect results, we mean it. We will set mandatory limits on air pollution, with firm deadlines, while giving companies the flexibility to find the best ways to meet the mandatory limits.

Clear skies legislation, when passed by Congress, will significantly reduce smog and mercury emissions as well as stop acid rain. It will put more money directly into programs to reduce pollution, so as to meet firm national air quality goals and put less money into the pockets of lawyers and regulators.

My administration will foster technologies that I'm absolutely convinced will change America for the better. We will promote innovative ways to encourage conservation. I believe we'll be driving automobiles driven by fuel cells in a relatively short period of time, and we're promoting that technology. I know we need to promote renewable sources of energy to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We also must encourage natural resource restoration, and one good place to start is

in the farm bill that's right now before Congress. Good stewardship is the daily work of America's farmers and those who own the land. I like to tell people, Laura and I are proud to be Texas—own a Texas ranch, and for us, every day is Earth Day. If you own your own land, every day is Earth Day. If you have to make a living off your land, it's important to make your land as productive as is possible. Every day is Earth Day. And so, therefore, I support—strongly support a strong farm conservation effort in the farm bill before the Congress. With more funding and incentives for conservation, we can help our farmers preserve wetlands and wildlife habitat and to better protect water quality.

Americans have reached a great consensus about the protection on the environment; we've come to understand the success of a generation is not defined by wealth alone. We want to be remembered for our material progress, no question about it, but we also want to be remembered for the respect we give to our natural world.

This Earth Day finds us on the right path, gaining in appreciation for the world in our care. Each of you here today is doing your part to advance that work and to spread this spirit. And on behalf of our country, I want to thank you.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. at Whiteface Mountain Ski Lodge. In his remarks, he referred to Steven J. McCormick, president and chief executive officer, Nature Conservancy. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

April 22, 2002

The President. Please be seated. We meet this evening to recognize some of our Nation's finest artists and scholars and authors. We honor their lifelong pursuit of excellence, and we hold up their achievements to future generations.

I want to welcome you all. I want to thank Dr. Bruce Cole, who is the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Eileen Mason, Acting Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts. I want to recognize Mrs. Lynne Cheney; Secretary of State Colin Powell and his wife, Alma; Tom Ridge, who is the Director of the Homeland Security Office.

Tonight we've got members of the Supreme Court with us: Antonin Scalia and his wife, Maureen; Stephen Breyer and his wife, Joanna. We've got a special entertainment tonight provided by my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here: from the United States Senate, Pete Domenici and Joe Lieberman, and from the House of Representatives, Norman Dicks, Mike McNulty, Tom Petri, Silvestre Reyes, and Louise Slaughter.

I also want to thank Adair Margo, who is the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. I want to thank the members of that committee, as well as the members of the National Council on the Arts and National Council on the Humanities.

I also want to pay tribute to the memory of Michael Hammond, who passed away in January after serving for only one week as the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. A classically educated scholar, Mike Hammond was also a composer and an educator and an expert on the neurology of the brain. All of us who were privileged to know Mike will miss him deeply.

The men and women who are about to receive the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal are singers and dancers and painters and producers and actors and writers and scholars. Yet, for all their differences, they have one thing in common: They're all teachers. They teach us about a "Boy Named Sue"—[*laughter*]—about an "Odd Couple." They teach us about a "Last Lion" or a "Ragman's Son." They help us to see more clearly and to think more deeply. They connect our past to our present and point the way to our future. And of course, they all have "The Right Stuff." [*Laughter*]

Honoring our leading artists and writers comes naturally to us. Yet, art and literature are often the first targets of tyranny, because they're the most prominent features of a free, creative, and open society. This creativity,

this openness, and this freedom are what America defends today.

This evening, as we celebrate the achievements of these remarkably talented women and men, let us also take just a moment to celebrate the Nation that esteems their craft, their hard work, and their sacrifice. America is proud to stand for creativity and freedom and civilization, and we honor these men and women who embody these values for America and for the world.

It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Humanities Medal winners.

First, Jose Cisneros: Jose is well-known and well-loved for his historically accurate depictions of the Old Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[*At this point, Maj. James M. McAllister, USA, Army Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Robert Coles is a scholar, teacher, psychiatrist, best known for his sensitive observation of the inner lives of our children. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Sharon Darling, a former schoolteacher, is president of the National Center for Family Literacy, an organization that spans the Nation and reaches thousands of families every single year. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. William Manchester is a gifted historian and biographer who makes the past come alive for millions of the readers. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Richard Peck has written more than 25 novels for younger readers which stress the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Eileen Jackson Southern, who could not join us tonight, is a pioneering musicologist who has helped us understand the power of African-American music. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation.*]

The President. Tom Wolfe is a chronicler of our times who has told us more about ourselves than many shelves of sociology books. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, established by Congress in 1949, has worked more than 50 years to put historic preservation on the national agenda. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. It is now my privilege to present the 2001 National Medals of Arts winners.

Rudolfo Anaya, called the Godfather of Chicano Literature, has written many works about the myths and folklore of the Southwest. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Johnny Cash: The Man in Black, country legend, an American beloved by millions. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Kirk Douglas is a distinguished actor, director, writer, and producer who has brought us more memorable performances on stage and screen than nearly anybody else for the past 60 years. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Helen Frankenthaler is an abstract expressionist painter whose works combine thoughtfulness with spontaneity. And I'm proud to say that Laura and I have one of her early works, "Painted on the 21st Street," which hangs in the private residence

at the White House. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Judith Jamison: She's a master dancer, teacher, choreographer, and arts administrator who has been a creative force in the dance world for nearly four decades. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Yo-Yo Ma: World-renowned cellist who represents the very best in classical music. I tipped my hand a little earlier, but later on this great American figure will be performing with another world-renowned figure. [*Laughter*] Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Mike Nichols: The endlessly inventive comedian, producer, and director of stage and screen. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. The Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, begun by master dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey in 1958, today ranks as one of America's most prestigious dance companies. Major, please read the citation.

[*Major McAllister read the citation, and the President presented the medal.*]

The President. Yes. Alvin Ailey. Congratulations.

And now it is my great pleasure to introduce my wife—[*laughter*]—the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush.

[*The First Lady congratulated the honorees and introduced Yo-Yo Ma and Condoleezza Rice, who performed a duet on cello and piano.*]

The President. Well, thank you all for coming tonight. It's been a fantastic evening. Again, I want to congratulate our honorees. And may God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Following Discussions With King Mohamed VI of Morocco and an Exchange With Reporters

April 23, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Oval Office. We've had a really good discussion about a number of matters. No question that Morocco is a great friend of the United States of America, and for that, Your Majesty, we are very grateful. I appreciate your steadfast support when it comes to the war on terror. I appreciate your leadership in the region.

Today I've informed His Majesty that our Government will work to enact a free trade agreement with Morocco. It's in our Nation's interest that we do so. His Majesty believes it's in his nation's interest that we have a free trade agreement as well.

To this end, it's very important that the United States Senate act on free trade, to give me the trade promotion authority, as well as to work on an extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act. Trade is an important part of good foreign policy; it's an important part of making sure Americans can find jobs. And the Senate needs to act, and it needs to act now.

We will continue our discussions over lunch. I look forward to those discussions. His Majesty brings a lot of knowledge, a lot of vision, and it's my honor to welcome him here to the Oval Office.

Your Majesty.

King Mohamed. Thank you. Well, as I told you, I will ask that—[*inaudible*]—to translate me. It will be easier for me and safer for you. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, King Mohamed spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The translation follows.*]

His Majesty wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for the words you have just expressed about Morocco and words which

honor His Majesty personally, the royal family, as well as the entire Moroccan people.

We are honored for—with the relations we have enjoyed so far with the United States. But I think it's time that we have to shift the gear to go on higher speed. And we have also—we are determined to carry out all kinds of programs dealing with our cooperation, our collaboration, all fields.

With respect to terrorism, Mr. President, we are also determined to go ahead with you in fighting terrorism. And this is something of concern to Morocco as much as it's of concern to the United States and all the democratic people in the world.

With respect to the free trade zone which you have just announced, Mr. President, I would like to thank you and to tell you how much we appreciate this initiative coming from yourself, Mr. President, and from the United States. We will work closely with your collaborators, in particular, Mr. Zoellick, who I have met twice and who will be visiting Morocco together with his colleagues. We will work very closely with them in order to bring about the concretization of this great program of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Morocco.

His Majesty wishes, Mr. President, to praise the efforts you personally make, and your administration, to promote peace and understanding in the world. He wishes also to thank and to praise Mr. Secretary of State Colin Powell for what he has done so far and especially the effort he just deployed lately and the visit in the region of which we are beginning to see the results.

And His Majesty wishes that the Secretary of State would have recovered by now from the trauma he has had when he first met with His Majesty in Agadir. [*Laughter*]

And I would like to thank also Mrs. Tutwiler for the excellent work she has been doing since she arrived to Morocco.

Situation in the Middle East

President Bush. Thank you, Your Majesty. We'll answer a couple of questions, or I will. Barry [Barry Schweid, Associated Press].

Q. Mr. President, on that trip, the Secretary came home with an Israeli idea, but others said similar things, for an international peace conference. And since he's been home, the White House reaction seems to be a little lukewarm. Is that something you think is a viable idea, a foreign ministers conference, perhaps?

President Bush. Well, what's first important to know, that our Government means what we say, and we said that the only way for there to be lasting peace is for there to be two states living side by side, at peace with each other; and secondly, that in order to achieve that vision, all parties have responsibilities. The Arab world has responsibilities, and we will work with them to delineate those responsibilities and to encourage them to accept those responsibilities. Mr. Arafat has got responsibilities, and that is not only to renounce terrorism but to fight terror. Mr. Sharon has got responsibilities, and that is to continue his withdrawal.

There is a strategy in place. We're analyzing all options to help achieve this vision. And I look forward to visiting with His Majesty about ideas such as a conference. The key is, however, for the leaders of the world to work toward that vision by assuming, accepting, and acting on the responsibilities necessary to achieve peace.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters], are you here?

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Bush. Who? Oh, there he is. There you are, sorry.

Resignation of Karen Hughes

Q. Mr. President, are you concerned that the long hours and the pressure of working in this building will drive away more people, like Karen Hughes? And would you be here without her?

President Bush. Well, first of all, Your Majesty, one of my close friends and adviser has informed the White House today that she is moving back to Texas. And the reason why is, is because her husband and son will be happier in Texas, and she had put her family ahead of her service to my Government. And I am extremely grateful for that approach and that priority. And Karen Hughes will be changing her address, but she will still be in my inner circle. I value her judgment, and I will have her judgment. I value her advice;

I have her advice. And I value her friendship, and I will have her friendship.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. King Mohamed referred to Robert B. Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative; and Margaret Tutwiler, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco.

Remarks Honoring the United States Winter Olympic and Paralympic Teams

April 23, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the south grounds of the White House. It's an honor to have you all here. Before I get started, I was wondering if anybody had their cell phone so I could speak to their mother. [*Laughter*]

It is a great honor to host our Nation's Olympic and Paralympic athletes here at the White House. I've really been looking forward to this day. In February you showed the entire world the best of the American spirit. You competed with honor; you won with humility; and you made America proud. On behalf of all Americans, congratulate—I congratulate you and thank you for inspiring our country.

It's good to welcome Mitt Romney back to the White House. Mitt, you did a fabulous job. I appreciate Lloyd Ward, the CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, for being here. Thank you, Lloyd. And Sandy Baldwin, the president of the U.S. Olympic Committee—it's good to see both of you again. I want to thank Mel Martinez, who is a member of my Cabinet, for coming today. Mel, thank you for being here.

And I'm glad to see Congressman Jim Ryun, who knows a little something about Olympics, a silver medalist who participated in the '64, '68, and '72 Olympics. Thank you for coming. I appreciate Tristan and Manuel being up here with me.

Americans will remember the 2002 games because we had the honor of hosting them, because the level of competition was so high, and because we had the thrill of seeing our fellow Americans perform at the highest level and achieve unprecedented success.

We watched a lot of our stars, a lot of our fellow citizens. Sarah Hughes—I was pleased to see her go from shock to joy as she learned she had won her first gold medal at the age of 16 years old. We cheered for Jim Shea, who just weeks after his grandfather's death followed in his victorious footsteps by winning a gold medal. We shared in the pride of Vonetta Flowers, whose gold medal in bobsledding made her the first African-American to win a gold medal in an Olympic winter games. A lot of us had Ohno fever. [*Laughter*]

And then America's Paralympics overcame great odds to excel in their sports. Sarah Will took home four gold medals in skiing, despite the fact that she's paralyzed from the waist down. Sarah Billmeier lost her left leg at 5 years old and this year skied away with a gold and two silvers. And Manuel Guerra contacted polio as an infant. This disease left him disabled in his left leg, but he pursued his love of hockey, and this year he and his teammates won the gold in sledge hockey.

All of your victories required hard work and skill and the determination to meet your goals. They also required great support. The honors you won are a tribute to devoted coaches and trainers, to loving parents who sacrificed to help you realize your dreams, to friends and supporters, and to more than 30,000 volunteers who helped make the Salt Lake games possible.

We've always supported our athletes here in America. But this year we looked at them with even greater pride and even more hope. You served as symbols of unity and strength and determination and of a peaceful competition and cooperation with people from all around the world. It was an important time for America, and you didn't let us down.

Our 2002 Olympians and Paralympians showed tremendous character. These teams were uniquely American. After all, we had firefighters on our team; we had members of the Armed Services; we've got community volunteers. And your commitment to your communities will serve you well as champions. You see, you're now more than athletes; you're role models—role models to children who dream of winning a gold medal

themselves, role models to young people who need someone to look up to, someone to set a positive example for how they should live their lives and how they should treat others.

This is a big responsibility, but the good news is you've all proven that you're up to the challenge. I want to thank you for representing the highest ideals of our Nation and for making America so proud.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Olympic gold medalists Tristan Gale, women's skeleton, Sarah Hughes, women's figure skating, Jim Shea, men's skeleton, Vonetta Flowers, women's bobsledding, and Apolo Anton Ohno, men's short track speedskating; and Paralympic gold medalists Manuel Guerra, Jr., goalie for the ice sledge hockey team, and Sarah Will and Sarah Billmeier, women's skiing. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7546—National Park Week, 2002

April 23, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our national park system helps preserve our history, heritage, and the natural beauty of our Nation for the enjoyment of all our citizens and many international visitors. Thanks to our park system, many of these treasures retain their original beauty and grandeur. The parks are places for recreation, education, and reflection, and we must take care of them in a way that preserves them for posterity.

In 1872, the Congress established in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming what we all know now as Yellowstone National Park. This beautiful area later became the first to be designated as a national park. Our national park system was established in 1916 to protect and maintain our natural resources and historic sites. Today, there are 385 national parks on 84 million acres, visited annually by 280 million people from around the world.

My Administration's "National Parks Legacy Project" was initiated to ensure proper care for our national park system. Through thoughtful and diligent efforts, the National Parks Legacy Project will enhance the parks' ecosystems, improve outdoor opportunities, address infrastructure needs, and establish accountability through performance goals. The National Parks Legacy Project and other actions such as our support for the Everglades Restoration Plan and our request to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund are important steps to support existing and future parks, vital habitats, and threatened ecosystems. I have asked the Secretary of the Interior to prepare an annual report on the conditions of our national parks and to offer specific recommendations for improvements.

We must also pay tribute to the role that the dedicated 20,000 men and women of the National Park Service play in preserving our parks. Each day these professionals and more than 120,000 volunteers work to make national parks accessible, safe, educational, and well maintained. Their job is critical to the future of our parks and national treasures, and America is grateful.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 28, 2002, as National Park Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of national parks and to learn more about these areas of beauty and their historical importance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:22 a.m., April 24, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

April 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 23, 2002.

Remarks at the National Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony

April 24, 2002

The President. Well, thank you, Rod. Thanks very much. I want to welcome you all to the White House and the spectacular Rose Garden. I'm a part of a proud tradition: For 25 years, American Presidents—for 50 years, American Presidents have been privileged to present the National Teacher of the Year Awards.

This ceremony not only honors a single individual; this ceremony honors an entire profession. Teachers make extraordinary contributions to the communities in which they live and, therefore, make extraordinary contributions to our entire country. We give our teachers a great responsibility, to shape the minds and hopes of our children. We owe them our thanks and our praise and our support.

I wish the First Lady would be here today. She is—she reminds me on a daily basis of the importance of being a teacher. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. She really didn't care for politics much—[*laughter*]—didn't particularly care for politicians. [*Laughter*] But I'm so glad she said yes when I asked her to marry me. She's a great First Lady and loves the idea of teaching, and one of her jobs is going to go around the country and remind people of the noble profession of teaching and encourage people to become teachers.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige. I've known Rod a long time; we're fellow Texans. When I picked somebody to be the Secretary of Education, I didn't want some theorist; I wanted somebody that had actually been in the trenches, who understood the importance of public education and how to make it work. And I wanted somebody that had a passion to make sure that no child got left behind in America. And I found the right man in my friend Rod Paige, to be the Secretary of Education.

Secretary Paige. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank two Members of the United States Congress: Judd Gregg, with whom I worked closely on the education bill we passed—he's from the State of New Hampshire—Todd Tiahrt from the State of Kansas. Thank you both for coming.

I just had the honor of having my picture taken in the Oval Office with 57 teachers of the year, and it was joyous. It was great. I want to thank you all for coming. It seemed like some of you were just as excited as I was to welcome—[*laughter*]—but it's a great office, as you could see. It's such an honor to be in that office on a daily basis, just like I know you feel it's an honor to be in your classrooms on a daily basis. So congratulations; thanks so much for being a teacher; thanks for setting such a great example; and welcome.

I also want to thank and congratulate our four finalists: Marian Galbraith, Henry Brown, Tracy Taylor Callard, and Chauncey Veatch. I'm going to say something about Chauncey a little later on.

Before I do so, though, I want America to remember how important it is to have good teachers in our classrooms. Teachers help students to read and write and to think and to count. These skills are essential, yet teaching them is only a part of a teacher's work. A good teacher instills in their students a lifelong interest in learning. A good teacher

gives young people a sense of their own possibilities, along with a respect for themselves and for others.

To paraphrase Oliver Wendell Holmes, the greatest teacher makes others believe in greatness. And they leave a lasting mark on the lives around them. And that's why it's easy for me to say teaching is such a profound profession. Teachers are indispensable. We ask a lot from them, and teachers are right to expect a lot from us.

I believe there is a role for the Federal Government in public education. It's—the role is to work with local folks to set the highest of high standards and to expect the best. It's to support people at the local level, with the full understanding that the best education emanates out of the classrooms, not from bureaucracies in Washington, DC. The role is to fund, which we do. And the role is to support our teachers through teacher training, retention, and recruitment, as well as to understand that simple things can matter to teachers a lot, like allowing for there to be a tax deduction for out-of-pocket expenses. We'll take the side of teachers as we work hard to provide a first-class education for every child—and we mean every child—in America.

This year's National Teacher of the Year understands the need to make sure no child gets left behind. He's made extraordinary contributions to his students, two of whom are with us today. I'm so honored that both these gentlemen came from California all the way over here to Washington to honor a teacher. It says a lot about our honoree.

This is a man who spent more than 25 years serving his country in the United States Army. Colonel Veatch, after serving the Army, turned to teaching over a decade ago. He now teaches social studies at Coachella Valley High in Thermal, California, where the overwhelming number of his students come from migrant families.

Chauncey Veatch is known as a kind and courteous, a tireless worker, a team player, a man who has transformed the school in which he works and the community in which he lives. Nearly all of the students at Coachella Valley High School are Hispanic. *Y por eso*, Mr. Veatch *habla espanol*. [*Laughter*] He speaks Spanish. He uses the language to communicate with his students and to show respect for a culture. He's involved in many after-school programs and community events. In short, he's changed a lot of lives for the better.

Through Chauncey Veatch's efforts, students long considered discipline problems started showing up on the honor roll. A teen with a learning disability who read at the elementary school level became an active participant in class. Boys dropped out of gangs to join the Cadet Corps, the student campus security force that he helped organize.

One migrant student at the high school had to work with his family until November, but Mr. Veatch saved him a place in his class and then spent hours with the student helping him catch up. According to this young man, "Mr. Veatch does this for all of his migrant students." No child will be left behind.

Mr. Veatch's former principal, Rick Alvarez, has paid this tribute to him. "Believing our students can succeed," Rick says, "is not a desire or a facade but is actually something Chauncey lives. This caring can be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice and felt in his presence and mostly seen in his actions."

Chauncey Veatch says his mission as a teacher is to be "a dream maker for my students, not a dream breaker." He understands that parents of every background share the same dreams for their children, dreams of improvement and independence and hope. "To dream is to be filled with hope," he says, "I know this because I see the faces of hope daily."

We want all our schools and all our teachers and principals to look at our children and see the faces of hope. And that's exactly what the teachers we honor today have done, on a daily basis.

Mr. Veatch, for teaching is not just a career; it is a high calling; it's a form of service to children and to a nation he loves. He has served both the children and our country extraordinarily well, and it is my honor to present Chauncey Veatch the National Teacher of the Year Award. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rick Alvarez, assistant superintendent of administrative services, Coachella Valley Unified School District.

Remarks at the Dakota Ethanol Plant in Wentworth, South Dakota

April 24, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Ron, I want to thank you very much. I thought Washington was where it got a little windy. [*Laughter*] You've got to remember, I was raised in west Texas. I'm kind of used to the wind. It reminds me of home.

I want to thank you all for a warm welcome. Thank you for being so gracious. Ron, thank you very much for hosting us here. I appreciate the briefing I had and the chance to meet with some of your fellow citizens in South Dakota, a chance to talk about ag policy. And I want to thank all those for coming as well.

I appreciate so very much Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman traveling with me today. I'm proud of the job Ann is doing. She's a great leader for the Ag Department. She understands farmers, understands farming, and she's doing America a fine job.

I want to thank your Governor for coming. Janklow and I have been friends for a long time. I was a Governor of Texas, he was a Governor of South Dakota; and he kept telling me what to do all the time when I was around him. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate you being here, Governor. Thank you very much.

We share something in common; we both married above our heads. [*Laughter*] I'm sorry my wife isn't with me. I had the honor of saying hello to the first lady of South Dakota at the steps of Air Force One. I bring up Laura because I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian who really didn't like politics and didn't care for politicians, either, I might add. [*Laughter*] And she has been such a calm and steady influence for the country, and she's come a long way from a public school librarian to a great First Lady. I'm real proud of her.

I want to appreciate the Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle, for being here today. Tom, I'm honored you'd come. And Tom and I have spent some quality time together. I invite him to the Oval Office for breakfast—he doesn't eat much, I want you to know, which is good for my wallet. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate working with him. And I also appreciate Senator Tim Johnson being here as well. Thank you, Tim, for coming. As well, we're honored to have the only Congressman from the State of South Dakota, John Thune—thank you for being here, John.

I want to spend some time talking about agriculture and the importance of agriculture for our country, but before I do, I want to tell you about the war. I want you to know that we're fighting against killers, cold-blooded murderers, and they still want to hurt us. Bill Janklow and I were talking coming in about what he has done to help secure the homeland here in South Dakota. And for that, I am grateful, and you need to be. He takes it seriously. He is on top of the situation here in South Dakota.

And I believe that around the country we're making great progress toward making our homeland more secure. We've got to do a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and why they're coming in, and, if they're going out, when they're supposed to be going out. We've got a good amount of money in the budget, as Senator Daschle can tell you, to make sure that our first-responders are ready, should something happen. We've got a good initiative on bioterrorism that we're working on, to make sure the homeland is secure.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these murderers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what America is going to do. The reason I tell you that is it's important for you to know that this war to secure our homeland and to protect freedom is not going to end anytime soon. I don't have a calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date we're going to quit. That's not how I think, much to the chagrin of the enemy. You see, I don't know what they were thinking when they attacked America. They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-centered, so weak that all we were going to do was to file a lawsuit. They found out we don't file lawsuits when it comes to defending freedom; we send our United States military.

And I've submitted a budget to the United States Congress that sets our defense as the number one priority. It's a big increase, no question about it. But my attitude is we're in it for the long haul, and we must send

that signal not only to the enemy but to our coalition partners. And secondly, anytime we commit a U.S. citizen who wears our uniform to combat, or in harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible. The price of freedom's high, but as far as I'm concerned, it's not too high, and we're going to pay it.

And there's no cave deep enough for them to hide. We're going to get them one by one, because this Nation is patient and we're plenty tough when it comes to defending our country.

But it's also important to know that we're a compassionate nation as well. I remind our citizens, particularly the young, that we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan to uphold the doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the ones that came to kill America, and routed out the Taliban, we didn't go in there as conquerors; we went in as liberators. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes ever. And now, thanks to the United States of America and our coalition partners, young girls go to school in Afghanistan.

We've got a lot of work to do on the war front. We've got a lot of work to do on making sure that Afghanistan is a viable nation which can defend herself and is a good neighbor in an important part of the world.

And so you just need to know that I am proud of America; I'm proud of the fact that we're unified. This isn't a Republican war; this isn't a Democrat war; this is an American war. And our country is unified, and we are strong, and we are resolved. And that makes this President and I know it makes the Members of the Congress feel really good.

And we have work to do at home as well. The enemy, when they hit us, did affect our economy. And there's no question about that. And my attitude is, anybody who wants to work who can't find work—we've got a problem in the economy. And there was a lot of people who wanted to work who couldn't find work.

What I thought was necessary was to cut the taxes on the people who work. See, my attitude is if you get people more money, they increase demands for good and services. When they increase demand for goods and services, somebody produces the goods and services. And when somebody produces the good and services, somebody's going to have a job to produce the goods and services. For the good of the jobs in America, cutting taxes and passing an economic—and signing an economic stimulus bill was good. It was good for the country.

And part of the tax relief package was the repeal of the death tax. The death tax is particularly tough on South Dakota and Texas farmers or anybody who farms or ranches. It's a tax that keeps taxing somebody's assets over and over again. You know, it's this—you get taxed by the income tax; you die; you keep paying taxes even after you're dead. It's not a fair tax, and we got rid of it.

Except for, there's a quirk in the rules in the United States Senate that means that, after 10 years, it's conceivable that the death tax doesn't go away. The House made the repeal of the death tax permanent. I saw that Senator Daschle is going to bring that to a vote on the floor of the Senate, for which I am grateful. It is time to get rid of the death tax forever.

American agriculture is incredibly important for our economic vitality. I—when I was the Governor of Texas, I had the honor of being the Governor of the second largest farm State in the Union. I'm heading to Crawford after tonight. It's not a very big town; almost everybody there is in agriculture business.

Like you all, I like to—I used to like to go down and sit around the coffee shop. They don't let me go down to the coffee shop anymore. [*Laughter*] But I think I got a pretty good handle on the importance of agriculture for the future of this country, and one of the most important ways to make sure the agriculture economy is strong is to promote value-added processing.

I said when I was running for President, I supported ethanol, and I meant it. I support it now, because not only do I know it's important for the ag sector of our economy, it's an important part of making sure we become less reliant on foreign sources of energy. I appreciate Senator Daschle working on the RFS standard.

And I appreciate John Thune working on the bio-energy rebate program, to make sure

that we help increase, on the one hand, the demand for ethanol and, on the other hand, the supply of ethanol. It's good public policy for America. It's good for our air; it's good for our economy; and it's good for our national security.

Thank goodness we're self-sufficient in food. But we're not so self-sufficient in energy. And pretty soon they're going to get an energy bill to my desk, and I look forward to signing it. On the one hand, it's going to encourage more conservation. On the other hand, hopefully it will spur not only the development of renewables but more oil and gas at home, and the two are not mutually exclusive. The less reliant we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the better off we are in America.

I mentioned we're self-sufficient in food, and that's good. And we generally produce more than we need here at home. And if that's the case, it seems like we ought to figure out how to sell more of it overseas. The more markets that are open for U.S. farmers and ranchers, the better off our economy will be.

It is important that this Nation embrace free and fair trade. It is important that we understand that when we're good at something—and we're the best farmers and ranchers in the world—we ought to work to open up markets to sell our products all across the world.

And I will tell you the days are over with, with American ag being kind of shunted aside when it comes to international trade agreements. We need to keep American ag in the forefront of trade agreements. It ought to be the cornerstone of international trade policy. And that's been my record thus far as the President, and it will be my record so long as I am the President.

I understand that the Senate is getting to take up a trade bill, for which I'm grateful. I look forward to getting that bill to my desk. It's important to get it passed and to get it moving. And it's important to get a farm bill to my desk as well. We need good farm legislation. It's—the farm bill needs to get done quickly so that the farmers who are out there fixing to plant know what the rules of the game is. And we can do it. We need to put aside all the posturing, all the noise, and for the good of American agriculture, get a trade bill to my desk and get a farm bill to my desk.

I want you to know that this great country is going to make the right decisions when it comes to peace, is going to make great decisions when it comes to how to bolster our economy and make sure we understand that a strong ag sector is good for America, good for everybody in America. But this country also is going to stand squarely in the face of evil, and here's how: We're going to love our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself and show the world that good overcomes evil every single time.

We can not only boast of a strong military and hopefully a vibrant economy all across the country, but we can do small acts of kindness that, in their aggregate, in their total, defines the true nature of America. You know, when you go to your Sunday school or your synagogue or mosque and vow to help somebody in need, you're really helping define the face of America. When you mentor a child who seems lost or hopeless, you're helping to define America. When you teach in a classroom, when you love your children and you tell your children you love them every day, that's part of making sure that America is as compassionate as can be.

No, the enemy hit us, but out of this evil is going to come some incredible good. Out of this evil is going to come a nation that will be stronger, more resolved, tougher, but also more loving.

I believe that the country is on the verge of changing the culture which for years has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a day in which each of us understand we're responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for something greater than ourselves.

That came home to me on Flight 93: When Americans were on an airplane, they got the word that they were—the enemy was going to use the airplane as a weapon. They got on cell phones and told their loved ones goodbye; they said a prayer; they drove the plane into the ground to save somebody else.

It's the America that I know, and it's the America that I love that was represented in

that act, and that happens every day. It happens every day here in South Dakota. It happens every day in States and communities across the country. That willingness to serve something greater than yourself is such a wonderful part of the American character.

And my call to you is, if you want to fight evil, do some good; love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's happening all across America—because, folks, I happen to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth because of our people.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. in a storage warehouse at the plant. In his remarks, he referred to Ron Alverson, president, board of directors, Lake Area Corn Processors, the plant's ownership cooperative; and Gov. William J. Janklow of South Dakota and his wife, Mary Dean Janklow. The President also referred to RFS, the proposed Renewable Fuels Standard to specify a percentage of the Nation's fuel supply to come from renewable domestic fuels like ethanol and biodiesel.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Corporate Responsibility Legislation

April 24, 2002

I commend the House for acting quickly to pass reforms that improve corporate responsibility and protect shareholders. The House bill includes the three core principles of my 10-point plan—providing better information to investors, making corporate officers more accountable, and developing a stronger, more independent audit system. With 80 million Americans participating as shareholders of companies, we must ensure high standards, tough disclosure requirements, and accurate information. The House bill is a responsible approach to addressing these important issues.

Message on the Observance of Armenian Remembrance Day

April 24, 2002

Today, we commemorate an appalling tragedy of the 20th century, the massacre of as many as 1.5 million Armenians through forced exile and murder at the end of the Ottoman Empire. These horrific killings left wounds that remain painful for people in Armenia, in Turkey, and around the world. I join the Armenian community in America and across the globe in mourning this horrendous loss of life.

Today is an occasion for the world to reflect upon and draw lessons from these terrible events. It is a day for recognizing that demonizing others lays the foundation for a dark cycle of hatred. Transcending this venomous pattern requires painful introspection about the past and wise determination to forge a new future based on truth and reconciliation. In this spirit, I look forward to Turkey restoring economic, political, and cultural links with Armenia.

The United States greatly values the contributions that Armenians make to our national life. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their centuries-old culture, traditions, and religion. The United States is also deeply grateful for Armenia's swift and decisive cooperation in the war against terrorism. Just as the United States reached out to the Armenian people to provide shelter and freedom early in the last century, so did Armenia extend a supportive hand to the American people in the immediate aftermath of September 11. Our two peoples stand together in this fight in support of values that define civilization itself.

I am also very proud of America's strong support for a free Armenian state, whose citizens enjoy the fruits of peace and increasing prosperity. In the months to come, America will continue to increase its security cooperation with Armenia and with Armenia's neighbors to combat terrorism and pursue a lasting and just settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which will strengthen peace and stability in the Caucasus. The United States will also continue its strong support for Armenia's efforts to develop democratic and free market institutions, and to deepen its integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

On behalf of the American people, I send warm wishes and expressions of solidarity to the Armenian people on this solemn day of remembrance. Together, our nations look

with hope and determination toward a future of peace, prosperity, and freedom.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John Thune in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

April 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you. It is great to be back in South Dakota. I want to thank you all for such a warm and gracious welcome. I am here because I want John Thune to become the next United States Senator. I want to thank you for helping him. He is—my attitude is, anytime you find a person of high character and strong values, you've got to help him, and I want to thank you for doing that.

I'm going to spare you from a lot of my speech that I'm going to give a little later on, but I do want to tell you it's a huge honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We've got a lot on our plate, and I hope to have this good man beside me in the United States Senate, just like he has been beside me as a fine Member of the United States House of Representatives.

We've got a war to win, and we're going to win the war. We've got an economy to worry about, and we're going to make the right decisions to encourage economic vitality and growth in all sectors, including the agricultural sector.

Today I had the honor of going to an ethanol plant. I made it very clear to the people there—and I'm going to continue to make it clear—that I meant what I said when I ran for President, that value-added processing—ethanol—is good for South Dakota; it's good for farmers; it's also good for America.

One of the things I also said—I remember clearly, when I came to South Dakota campaigning—I said if you give me a chance to be President, I'll work hard to cut the taxes on the people of our country. And thankfully, we did. And we did so right at the right time.

There's—some people up there in Washington read a different textbook than John and I read. [*Laughter*] You see, we believe that if you let people have their own money—and it's not the Government's money, of course; it's your money—that you'll spend it. And when you spend it, somebody produces a good and service. And when they produce a good and service to meet the demand, that means somebody is going to work. The best way to encourage the creation of jobs is not through excessive Federal Government; it is through trusting the people of our country with their own money. We cut the taxes, and we cut them at the right time.

I'm going to talk about some other issues a little later on, but one thing I want to remind our country is that we're great. And we're great not because of our Government; we're great because of our people. The thing that I am most proud about, about America, right after this terrible incident of September the 11th, is the American spirit: how strong we have stood in the face of terror; how determined we are as a nation to defend that which we hold most dear, which is our freedoms; and how compassionate our nation can be.

I'm going to say this a little later on, but I want to say it again here—that we can fight evil and will, with a strong military. But at home, we need to fight evil through acts of compassion and decency and kindness. As Americans love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, we show the world the true face of this great country and in so doing stand squarely—squarely—in the face of evil.

I want to thank you all for the many prayers—I had some pictures taken back there, and a lot of people came through and said, "Mr. President, we pray for you and your family." It means a lot to me. It means a lot to me to be a President of a country that prays for their President, and it means a lot to me to be the President of a country that is full of so many decent and honorable and hard-working and bold Americans.

Again, I want to thank you for helping John. This is a very important election. He is—I stand here knowing the character of the man. I know his values. I know his strengths. He will be great for South Dakota in the

United States Senate, and he will be great for America as its next Senator.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Remarks at a South Dakota Republican Party Rally in Sioux Falls

April 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you very much; thank you for that warm welcome. I'm really glad I came back to South Dakota. John said to me, he said, "Well, you might want to come over to South Dakota. A few of my friends might show up." [*Laughter*] I want to thank all of you for coming.

I'm here for a couple of reasons. First, I'm here because I firmly believe that John Thune should be the next United States Senator from South Dakota. And I'm here to thank the people of this good State who work so hard for the Republican Party, who know that our party represents strength and compassion, that we trust the people of America. I want to thank those of you who man the phones and lick the envelopes, who carry the signs. I want to thank the grassroots support that are so incredibly important not only for making sure our point of view is heard but incredibly important part of our democracy. Your job of turning out the vote and talking to the neighbors and going to the coffee shops and spreading the word is incredibly important. And it's going to be an important reason why John Thune gets elected next November.

I want to thank John's wife, Kimberley, for making the sacrifice necessary to—for her husband to run for this high office. John and I share something in common; that is, we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] My regret is that my wife, Laura, isn't with me here tonight. But I will tell you, I am incredibly proud of this fine soul. She is doing a great job as the First Lady for our country.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]—in South Dakota!

The President. I had the honor of serving as the Governor of my State, and while I was the Governor, I got to know the Governor of your State. He is—he's one of a kind. [*Laughter*] I'm proud to be with my old Governor friend, and I know you're proud of the job he's doing as your Governor. I also want to thank the first lady, Mary Dean, as well.

I want to thank the party chairman, Joel Rosenthal. I want to thank the national committeeman, the national committeewoman. I want to thank you all.

This is a—this is a really large crowd. [*Laughter*] It says something about the vitality of our message, and it says something about the strength of our candidate for the United States Senate. Here's what I like about John. I like his values. I respect his intellect. I appreciate his dedication to hard work and his desire to get things done in Washington, DC, on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota. He's not afraid to stand up for what he believes, and it's refreshing to hear his voice amongst the shrill partisans in Washington, DC. He's a steady hand, and he's a man with whom I can work.

We've worked on big issues thus far. One of the most important issues we worked on was making sure the people of South Dakota and America got to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. When it comes time to spending money in Washington, DC, both of us understand the money we're spending is not the Government's money. The money we're spending is the people's money. And we cut your taxes right at the right time.

You know, our economy was floundering. When I went into office, the economy was grinding down, and that deeply troubled me. Anytime somebody in this country wants to work and they can't find a job, I'm troubled by that. But I understood this economic fact: If you let people keep their own money, they're going to spend it; they're going to demand something. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or service, that means somebody is going to find work. The tax cuts we passed, in spite of some of the big spenders in Washington, DC, helped this economy get back on its feet.

And we need a good farm bill out of Congress. We don't need any more politics with the farm bill. Let's get a farm bill on my desk

that makes sense for the South Dakota farmers. Farming is an incredibly important part of this national economy of ours. It's important to understand that good farm policy is not only good for the economy; it's good for out national security as well. Thank goodness we can feed our people in America.

And what's bad for our national security is that we are too dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We're too dependent on sources of energy from some countries that don't particularly care for America. And one way to help reduce that dependency is to promote, encourage value-added processing with America products such as ethanol.

I told the people—I told the people when I was running, I was for ethanol. And a lot of people said, "Well, he's from Texas. He's not for ethanol." Listen, I'm the President of everybody, and I understand what it means to be reliant upon somebody else's energy. There's plenty of room for ethanol in the energy mix in America. We must have it. We must have it for the good of our farm economy; we must have it for the good of our air; and we must have it for the national security reasons of the United States of America.

My view about trade is this: If you're good at something, you ought to promote it. And one of the things we're good at is raising meat and growing crops. America has got a competitive advantage when it comes to our agriculture. We grow more than we need here in America, and therefore, we ought to have policy that helps us feed the world. I want free trade, and I want fair trade. The House has passed a trade promotion authority, and so should the United States Senate.

And the good news is, John Thune understands that. And he also understands this, that our party has been compassionate. We've been conservative, but we have been compassionate when it comes to issues like welfare reform. One of the great successes in recent history has been the welfare reform law, which says if you're dependent upon Government, it's hard to realize your dreams. Listen, we'll help people who cannot help themselves. But we have reduced dependency upon Government as a result of encouraging and training and insisting that people go to work.

There is a welfare reform reauthorization coming up; in other words, we've got to rewrite the bill. I want to make sure someone like John Thune is elected to the Senate so that if that bill gets reauthorized when he's a Senator, there will be a voice for reason and compassion, a voice that understands, with a job you find dignity, and a voice who will join me in promoting family and marriage in the welfare reform bill.

Like the farmers here, I'm kind of an early morning fellow. I get up every morning; I take old Barney and Spot outside. [*Laughter*] Spot then joins me in the Oval Office. After all, she was born in the White House and is used to the trappings there. Barney's only a year and a half, so he doesn't spend much time inside the Oval Office. After all, we've got a new rug in there. [*Laughter*]

I walk in the office; I sit behind a desk that has been used by Presidents ranging from the Roosevelts to Kennedy to Reagan, and I read a threat assessment. I read a list of potential threats to our country, and it reminds me that my most important job is to do everything in my power to protect the American people, that my most important job is to make sure that the enemy doesn't hit us again.

And we're making progress. I want you to know that we take this notion of homeland security very seriously. Today I was visiting with your Governor, and he explained to me what South Dakota is doing. I'm most impressed with his leadership on this issue. You need to know that we follow every single lead. If we hear somebody might want to hurt us, we're running them down.

We're making sure our borders are more secure. Here in America, we're a welcoming society. But we want to know who's coming in, and we want to know who's going out.

As part of our homeland defense strategy, we're spending money and working closely with our first-responders, the brave police and fire and EMS teams all across America. We want to be prepared in America, and we've got a strategy to do just that. And for those of you who wear the uniform who are here tonight, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

We take the threat of bioterrorism very seriously here in America, and we've got a strategy to deal with that.

What I'm telling you is, we're doing everything in our power to protect the American people. But the surest way to protect the American people is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice.

I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they attacked America. I guess they must have thought that this was a soft nation, that we were so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so weak that all we were going to do was to file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They found out we think differently here in America. They found out that when it comes to the defense of our freedoms—the freedom to worship, the freedom to speak, the freedom to assemble, freedom of the press—that we're a mighty nation, and if threatened, we will respond.

I can't tell you how proud I am of the United States military. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful nation and a grateful Commander in Chief.

The world is also finding out that when America says something, we mean it, that when we say we're going to do something, we're going to follow through. Early on, I said to the world that either you're with us, or you're against us. The good news is, a lot of the world is with us, and for that we're grateful. I also said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a killer, if you hide a killer, you're just as guilty as the killers." And the Taliban regime in Afghanistan found out exactly what we meant.

It is so important for Americans, particularly young Americans, to understand that this Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, our military and our coalition partners did not go in as conquerors; we went in as liberators. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. In so doing—in so doing, we opened up schools for the first time for many young girls. I am proud of the efforts. I'm proud of our steadfast resolve, our determination, our unity, and I'm proud of the values that our country holds dear. You see, we value the worth of every single individual, regardless of their religion, regardless of their status.

I have submitted a budget to Congress—and I'm so proud that John is supporting this budget—that makes the defense of our country the number one priority. It's a significant increase in the defense budget. It's the largest increase since Ronald Reagan, and I have done so for two reasons. One, anytime this Nation commits our young to battle, anytime we put our troops in harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible support from the Government of the United States of America. And I have submitted a significant increase because it is an indication of the struggles ahead. It is a signal to the world that the United States is in this war for the long haul.

I don't have a calendar on my desk that says by such and such a moment this war will end. I don't operate under false deadlines. And I know the nature of the enemy; they're coldblooded killers. And we have no choice but to defend ourselves and defend our friends by hunting them down.

The second phase of the war after Afghanistan is to deny sanctuary, training bases, or recruitment facilities for any one of these killers. To put it bluntly, we're treating them like they are: international criminals. And we've got them on the run, and we're hunting them down one person at a time. There is no cave deep enough for this patient Nation. They think they can run, and they think they can hide, but they're going to be sorely disappointed.

Our war against terror is more than just a person; it is more than just a network. We understand that history has called us to defend freedom so that people can grow up in a free society, not only in America but around the world. And so I want you to know that when I talk about an axis of evil, I mean it. We will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to harbor and develop the world's most dangerous weapons. History has given us a chance to rise up, and rise up we will, in the defense of those values we hold dear.

And so I want to thank my fellow citizens here in South Dakota and all around America for their—for their unity and purpose and resolve. I truly believe that by being firm and

tough, we can achieve peace. That's what I want. I want lasting peace. I want peace not only for America; I want peace for regions of the world that are plagued by terror. I want peace so people can grow up and realize their God-given potential. I believe that when America fulfills its duty and honors the mission, that peace is more likely to come.

And I also know that out of this terrible evil done to America can come incredible good. People oftentimes ask me, "What can I do to help?" And my answer is this: Love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself; if you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, it's the collective action of millions of acts of kindness that take place every day in America that truly defines the character of our country and allows us to stand squarely in the face of evil.

If you want to help your country, mentor a child. If you want to help your country, go to your church or synagogue and mosque and rally good people to feed the homeless. If you want to help your country, remember there are pockets of despair and loneliness that can be solved by somebody putting their arm around somebody and saying, "I love you." This country has risen to its task, because not only do we defend our values but because we're a nation full of great hearts and kind souls and decent people.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. I believe America is beginning to realize the importance of serving something greater than yourself in life, the importance of recognizing that as you serve something greater than yourself in life, you serve your country.

That lesson came home so clear. I think the young here, when they read the history of 9/11, should remember what took place on Flight 93. People getting on an airplane thought they were just going through an average day of travel. They were told the plane served as a—was serving as a weapon. They were told what was on the ground. A couple of people got on the phone and told their wives and loved ones goodbye, they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane to the ground to save lives.

It's the American—it is that spirit, it is that ultimate sacrifice, that sense of personal responsibility which is helping to change this Nation. You see, the culture says, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." There's a new awakening here in America that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—that we are responsible—that if you are a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving that child with all your heart and all your soul, and if you're a good citizen, you're responsible for loving a neighbor. And that's what's happening in America.

This is a great country. I can't tell you how optimistic I am about the future of our land. I'm optimistic that we'll achieve peace. I'm optimistic that we will stand squarely in the face of evil, with acts of kindness and decency. And I'm optimistic that this country will remain the most hopeful place on the face of the Earth.

It is an honor, a high honor, to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. Thank you for giving me that privilege. May God bless you all. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:33 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Arena. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate John Thune; Gov. William J. Janklow of South Dakota and his wife, Mary Dean Janklow; and Joel Rosenthal, chairman, Ron Schmidt, national committeeman, and Mary Jean Jensen, national committeewoman, South Dakota Republican Party.

Remarks Following Discussions With Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

April 25, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I was honored to welcome Crown Prince Abdullah to my ranch, a place that is very special for me and a place where I welcome special guests to our country. The Crown Prince and I had a very cordial meeting that confirmed the strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

Our partnership is important to both our nations. And it is important to the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East and

the world. We discussed the critical importance of the war on terror. Much of our discussion centered on the Middle East and how to defuse the current situation so we can get back on the path to peace.

Our two nations share a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. I reiterated that all parties have responsibilities to help achieve that vision. The Palestinian Authority must do more to stop terror. Israel must finish its withdrawal, including resolution of standoff—standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem, in a nonviolent way.

We discussed the need for Arab states to condemn terror, to stop incitement of violence, and as part of a long-term peace, to accept Israel as a nation and a neighbor. We also agreed the world must join in offering humanitarian aid to the many innocent Palestinians who are suffering.

I told the Crown Prince how much I appreciate his vision for a peaceful and integrated Middle East and how I appreciated his leadership in helping rally the Arab world toward that vision. I also appreciated the Crown Prince's assurance that Saudi Arabia condemns terror.

The Crown Prince is going to be in America for several more days, and officials from both our Governments will be continuing our discussions with the hope that our efforts can help return us to the path of peace—a lasting peace.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, Saudi officials have taken strong issue with your characterization of Prime Minister Sharon as a man of peace and say that your tolerance of what he's doing risks damage to U.S.-Arab relations. Were you and the Crown Prince able to bridge differences over that issue and find ways to fix the fragile Arab support?

The President. Well, first of all, one of the really positive things out of this meeting was the fact that the Crown Prince and I established a strong personal bond. We spent a lot of time alone discussing our respective visions, talking about our families. I was most interested in learning about how he thought about things. I'm convinced that the stronger our personal bond is, the more likely it is relations between our country will be strong.

I made it clear to him that I expected Israel to withdraw, just like I've made it clear to Israel. And we expect them to be finished. He knows my position. He also knows that I will work for peace; I will bring parties along. But I think he recognizes that America can't do it alone, that it's going to require a unified effort, and one of the main things about this visit was to solidify that effort.

He's a man with enormous influence in the Middle East. I respect that a lot, and I'm confident we can work together to achieve a peace.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

Oil

Q. Mr. President, the Crown Prince raised the prospect of Saudi support for Iraq's oil embargo, and are you concerned that Arab nations might use oil as a—try to use oil as a bargaining chip in the Middle East crisis?

The President. Well, Saudi Arabia made it clear and has made it clear publicly that they will not use oil as a weapon. And I appreciate that, respect that, and expect that to be the case.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, to follow on what Sandra asked you, do you feel like you made some personal headway in meeting with the Prince today, in reassuring him of the United States belief that all parties in the region must work harder to——

The President. I——

Q. ——do you feel like—do you feel like you need to convey this message, perhaps in a stronger way, by sending somebody to the region to meet with other Arab leaders who are raising concerns along these lines?

The President. Well, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], we just sent somebody to the region. And that somebody has just returned from the region, and his name is Colin Powell. And we're exploring all options. A lot of our discussion with the Saudi delegation was how to get back on the path to peace. Clearly, there's some things that must be done in the short run—finish the

withdrawal by Israel, for the Palestinian Authority to clamp down on terror. We discussed that in very plain and straightforward terms.

As to where we head from now, one of the things that I think is important for the Crown Prince to have heard is we're interested in his advice; we're interested in his counsel. We share a vision, and I reminded him how much I appreciated his statement toward Israel. I thought that was a breakthrough moment. And it—and then he went and sold that in Beirut, and I appreciated that as well.

So there's a shared vision. And as to how to achieve that vision is something we must consult with our friends. And that's what this meeting was about. It went on quite a while because there was a lot to discuss, plus, I want you to know, I had the honor of showing him my ranch. He's a man who's got a farm, and he understands the land, and I really took great delight in being able to drive him around in a pickup truck and showing him the trees and my favorite spots. And we saw a wild turkey, which was good. But we had a very good discussion, and I'm honored he came to visit.

Last question.

Saudi Arabia and Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, do you believe—you said that the Crown Prince is against terror. Do you think he will speak out? Did he make any promises about speaking out? Should he speak out? And secondarily, in Saudi Arabia, do you believe the leadership is doing enough to deal with their own problems with terrorism that comes out of their own country? Fifteen of the 19 hijackers——

The President. Yes, I—the Crown Prince has been very strong in condemning the murder of U.S. citizens. He's been very strong about condemning those who committed those murders. And I appreciate that a lot. Right after 9/11, he was one of the strongest voices of condemnation. He understands how devious Usama bin Laden has been. He knows that—that anybody who—you know, that a strategy by some would be to split the United States and Saudi Arabia. It's a strong and important friendship, and he knows that, and I know that, and we're not going to let that happen. So he's been very strong in the condemnation of terror, for which I'm grateful.

And we're constantly working with him and his Government on intelligence-sharing and cutting off money. And we're reminding him, on occasion, where we find money flows, and the Government has been acting, and I appreciate that very much. He's got a—right now we're working on an issue in the border region with Yemen to make sure that Yemen doesn't become a haven for Al Qaida killers. And I appreciate his cooperation on that matter as well. It's in his interest that we rout out terror.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:06 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Statement on Senate Action on National Energy Policy Legislation

April 25, 2002

The Senate today passed legislation that includes many of the provisions called for in my administration's national energy policy. Together, the House and Senate energy bills include the major conservation and environmentally responsible production measures needed to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

I am pleased that the House-Senate conference committee will have before it the elements of a comprehensive energy policy. The two bills reflect my administration's call to provide tax incentives for alternative and renewable fuels and technology; modernize our electricity laws; open a small portion of ANWR to responsible exploration; increase automotive fuel efficiency while protecting American lives and jobs; and ensure continued safe operation of our nuclear facilities.

It is imperative that America increase its energy independence, and I look forward to working with the conferees to ensure that we enact a balanced and comprehensive energy policy this year.

NOTE: The statement referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks on the National Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford

April 26, 2002

The President. Good morning. The Department of Commerce announced that our economy grew by 5.8 percent in the first quarter of 2002. That's a very encouraging sign for American workers and American families. Yet, as encouraging as this number is, I am not content. We've got more to do.

This morning I had a conference with my economic team, and we all agree that a major force contributing to the high growth figure is a short-term swing in inventories. This means that the impetus behind growth won't last very long, that we must continue working to make sure the short-term recovery is a long-term recovery.

Today's report is strong evidence, however, that our tax relief plan is working. If you look at the figures behind—the rationale behind the figures, you'll see that a lot of it had to do with consumer spending. And the more people—money people have in their pockets, the more likely it is they're going to spend. And tax relief is an incredibly important part of this recovery.

Now that's why, as part of making sure that the economy grows long term, is that we make the tax relief permanent, so that there's certainty in the Tax Code. The economic stimulus bill I signed—passed out of both Houses and then I signed—will help for the long-term growth—was an important piece of legislation that will help in the out-months and out-years.

We must continue to encourage investment and hiring. One way to do that is to get this energy bill done and get it to my desk. I'm pleased that it passed the House; I'm pleased that it passed the Senate. I look forward to working with them on the reconciliation to get it to my desk.

A second way to encourage long-term growth is to give me trade promotion authority, allow me to negotiate trade agreements, which will open up markets for U.S.-manufactured products as well as products produced by American farmers and entrepreneurs. I'd like to get that bill soon. I think it's an important piece of legislation. It passed the House. Senator Daschle said he'd bring it up in the Senate. I hope it's done quickly. It's important that it be done quickly.

Also, to make sure that our economy grows, it's important for Congress to hold the line on spending. I submitted a budget; I expect them to adhere to the budget. If we overspend this year, it's going to have an effect on long-term growth.

And finally, it is important to pass the terrorism insurance bill. One of our concerns is that as a result of people not being able to get proper insurance against terrorist acts, capital—construction projects in the private sector that normally would have gone forward, haven't done so, so far.

So these are the steps that are necessary to make sure the—that we have long-term growth in our economy. I'm pleased with the numbers. I realize there's going to be some—it's an estimate—there will be other revisions on this quarter. But it's a good sign. It's a good sign that we're on the path to long-term recovery. But, as I repeat, I'm not content with this number, and I know we've got a lot of work to do.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Scott [Scott Pelley, CBS News], why don't you start.

Discussions With Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, late yesterday the Saudis said they had warned you that U.S. credibility could suffer because you haven't done enough to rein in Sharon. What did you say to the Crown Prince on that, and what's the next U.S. move?

The President. Well, I told the Crown Prince that we've got a unique relationship with Israel, and that one thing that the world can count on is that we will not allow Israel to be crushed. And I think that's an important statement to make. It's a part of our foreign policy; it has been a part of our foreign policy; it will continue to be a part of our foreign—the Saudis understand that.

I also reiterated what I told the country and the world on—early April, and that is, all parties have responsibilities in order to make sure there is peace. The Crown Prince is interested in peace in the region, and so am I. And I said to the Crown Prince, and he—and we had a good discussion about the obligations of the Arab nations. The Crown Prince was clear in his denunciation of terror. Chairman Arafat has got obligations, and so does the Israelis. And I once again enunciated what those obligations are, and—so that the Crown Prince understands my foreign policy. And it's important that we speak with clarity, and I will continue to do so.

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territory

Q. It's been 2 weeks since you said that Israeli withdrawal ought to be coming without delay, and yet yesterday there was yet again another incursion looking for Palestinians. Have you talked—what else can you say to the Israelis to make your point clear?

The President. The Israelis understand my position. I've been very clear on that. And there has been some progress, but it's now time to quit it altogether. It's time to end this——

Q. Why don't they——

The President. Well, we'll see what happens. It's—I know they've heard us.

Tax Cuts and Federal Deficit

Q. Mr. President, you've called again for making the tax cut permanent. But there's new figures out now suggesting that the deficit may double—may be double earlier forecasts because of a shortfall in tax collections. How do you reconcile that? How do you deal with that larger——

The President. Well, first of all, let me remind everybody of the facts. I haven't seen this particular story. Of course, it's all speculative to begin with. I don't know the models that they guessed, but it's guesswork thus far. In our guesswork from the OMB, we projected over $100 billion of deficit.

I remind—I want to remind you what I told the American people, that if I'm the President—when I was campaigning—if I were to become the President, we would have deficits only in the case of war, a recession, or a national emergency. In this case, we got all three. And therefore, we're recovering from all three.

Now, I have submitted a budget that sets clear priorities, and the number one priority is to defend the homeland. And I expect Congress to pass the defense appropriations bill early and get it to my desk. That's going to be an important signal to send our own military, for the country to send to the world, that we're in this for the long haul.

But the best way to build up—you know, the best way to reduce deficits and to get back into balance is to encourage economic growth. The more growth there is, the more tax revenues there will be coming into the Treasury—and hold the line on spending. It is very important for Congress not to overspend.

We'll see whether they can get a budget. The House got a budget. We'll see whether or not the Senate gets a budget. But I've laid out my budget. I'm very serious about the budget. And the best tool I have besides persuasion is to veto. And I'm mindful of what overspending can mean to interest rates or expectations of interest rates. And it's very important that we hold the line on spending.

Morning Run

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. Did you run today?

Q. I did, this morning.

The President. Good. Do you care to tell the country what your time was?

Q. You know what, I forgot to turn my watch on. [*Laughter*]

The President. Feeble excuse for a slow run. [*Laughter*]

Aid to Israel

Q. It was a slow run. It was a slow run. Some conservatives in Congress, including Representative DeLay, are pushing at a resolution to take a very strong pro-Israel stand. A bipartisan group of lawmakers want to put some more aid to Israel, roughly $200 million, into the supplemental. Do you support these positions, and do they in any way complicate your desire to make clear to moderate Arab nations that, you know, you're making demands on everybody, including Israel?

The President. Well, first, let me address the supplemental. I submitted a supplemental, and when I did so, I was mindful that oftentimes supplementals become—a supplemental can be a vehicle for a lot of additional spending. In order to make sure our economy remains strong, we've got to watch the line on spending. And so when I said, when I submitted the supplemental, that this was a number that was comfortable with, I meant that.

In terms of the resolution, I haven't seen it, but I'm not surprised that Congress would want to express its strong support of Israel. This is clearly a Congress that believes that our relationship with Israel is unique, and Israel is a democracy. I also hope and believe that Congress recognizes we've got interests in the area as well, beyond Israel, that we've got—have good relationships with the Saudis and the Jordanians and the Egyptians, and our foreign policy is aimed to do that. People know exactly where I stand, and that's very important in the realm of foreign policy.

Now I've got to go over to a friendraiser.

RNC Luncheon/Logan Walters Wedding

Q. A friendraiser?

The President. Well, that's opposed to a fundraiser.

Q. What's a friendraiser? Tell us about that.

The President. A friendraiser? Well, it's a—well, it's just kind of a cute way of saying I'm going to go over and see people and thank them for being a part of my campaign. And they actually get to do this for free. And I'm glad. But these will be people, evidently, from all around the country. I haven't seen the list, but I'm told that they are. And I look forward to thanking them. It's really a way of thanking people, many of whom I—I suspect I haven't seen since I've been the President. It's a nice, casual setting to say hello to people, and I'm looking forward to it.

And then, of course, tomorrow night, for those of you who followed the campaign, we'll all be going to watch little Logan get married. It's going to be an emotional moment for us, because we love Logan. And interestingly enough, Logan is marrying the niece of Don Evans' wife. And so I've known them for a—known the family for a long period of time. Logan's bride's father was the Boy Scout in my Cub Scout den. Now, you can chew on that for the rest of the day. [*Laughter*]

Root [Jay Root, Fort Star-Telegram], good to see you. How's little Root?

Q. Good, he's doing good. His fingers are about like mine. [*Laughter*]

The President. That's good. Tell him hello for me. Tell the bride hello.

Q. You know, they've got a lot of planes out at the airport there.

The President. Are there?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—little planes—[*inaudible*]—flying in——

The President. Well, they're coming in for a friendraiser.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Logan Walters, former Presidential Aide, and his fiancee, Katherine Marinis, executive assistant, political affairs, Executive Office of the President. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 22

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Wilmington, NY, where he worked on a trail maintenance project on the Ausable River Trail in Adirondack Park. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

April 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. In the afternoon, he met with Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to discuss Bulgaria's potential admission into NATO.

April 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Wentworth, SD. In the afternoon, he traveled to Sioux Falls, SD. In the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to designate John L. Howard as Federal Environmental Executive of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his appointment of Mark A. Carter, John G. Cruz, and Grace Flores-Hughes as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Paul Hammerschmidt as a member of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation's Veterans and, upon appointment, to designate him Cochair.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.: Audrey J. Roberts (retailers/consumer representative), Kenneth Rocks (labor representative), Donald R. Elliot (industry representative), Diane K. Morales (defense representative), and David D. Spears (agriculture representative).

April 25

The President announced his intention to nominate James Franklin Jeffrey to be Ambassador to Albania.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roel C. Campos and Harvey Jerome Goldschmid to be Commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

April 26

In the morning, from the Bush Ranch, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to express his condolences concerning recent terrorist attacks in the Philippines. Later, he had a teleconference with economic advisers.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon at a neighboring ranch in Crawford.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 22

Michael F. Duffy,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2006, vice James Charles Riley.

Carol C. Gambill,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of 3 years (new position).

James Knoll Gardner,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Jan E. DuBois, retired.

Thomas Forrest Hall,
of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Deborah Roche Lee, resigned.

G. Wayne Pike,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Larry Reed Mattox, term expired.

Mark G. Yudof,
of Minnesota, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term of 2 years (new position).

Submitted April 25

James Franklin Jeffrey,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

Richard M. Russell,
of Virginia, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, vice Arthur Bienenstock.

Mark Sullivan,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice Karen Shepherd, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 22

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Conservation and Stewardship on Earth Day

Announcement of the citations for the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal honorees

Announcement of nomination of U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Released April 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks to the press by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes announcing her resignation

Released April 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman

Released April 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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